

FAS – Office of Global Analysis (OGA)
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
International Operational Agriculture Monitoring Program



Week 1 – Summary
May 02, 2008

1. Production for MY 2008/09 winter wheat and barley crop is forecasted to be lower than the previous year, particularly in the northern rainfed governorates due to poor precipitation during the planting and establishment of winter grains.
2. AFWA weather data extracted from USDA Crop Explorer (<http://www.pecad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/>) showed that decadal precipitation between April 21st, 2008 and April 30th, 2008 was less than normal in the northern governorates and near normal for the southern governorates. Average decadal temperatures for the entire country are noted to be above normal for the same time period (Figure 1).
3. Crop abundance maps derived from Quickbird high resolution imagery over the province of Dahuk (AOI #2) revealed harvesting activity (Figures 2 & 3). The activity is consistent with historical Landsat ETM+ data from the years 2000 and 2002 that also show start of harvest near mid-April.

* Winter grains planted area statistics will be available in the May pre-lockup report.
Release Date: May 2, 2008

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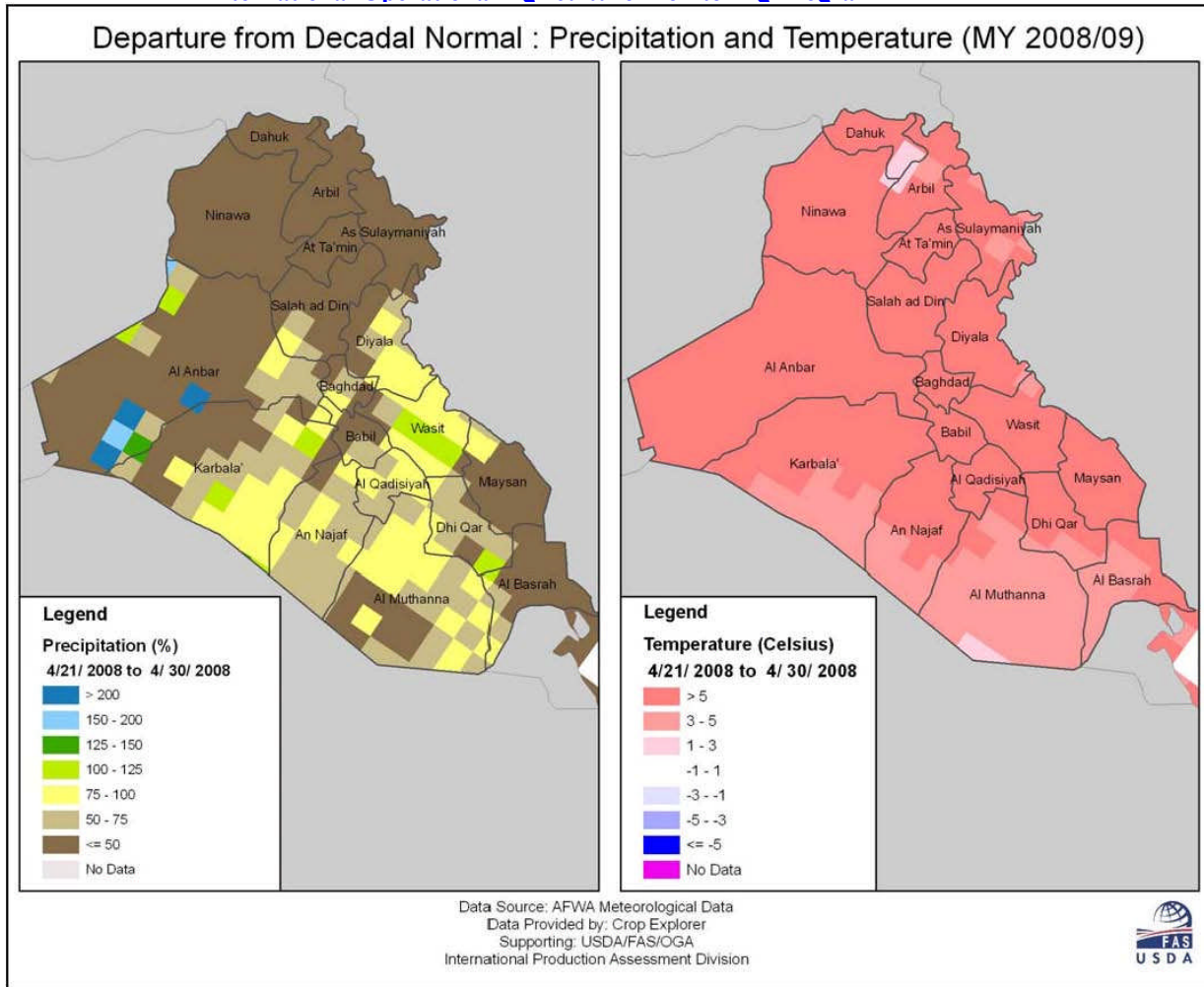


Figure 9: Precipitation and temperature departure from normal for the last dekad of April.

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Crop Harvest: Mar 29th, 2008 to Apr 24th, 2008

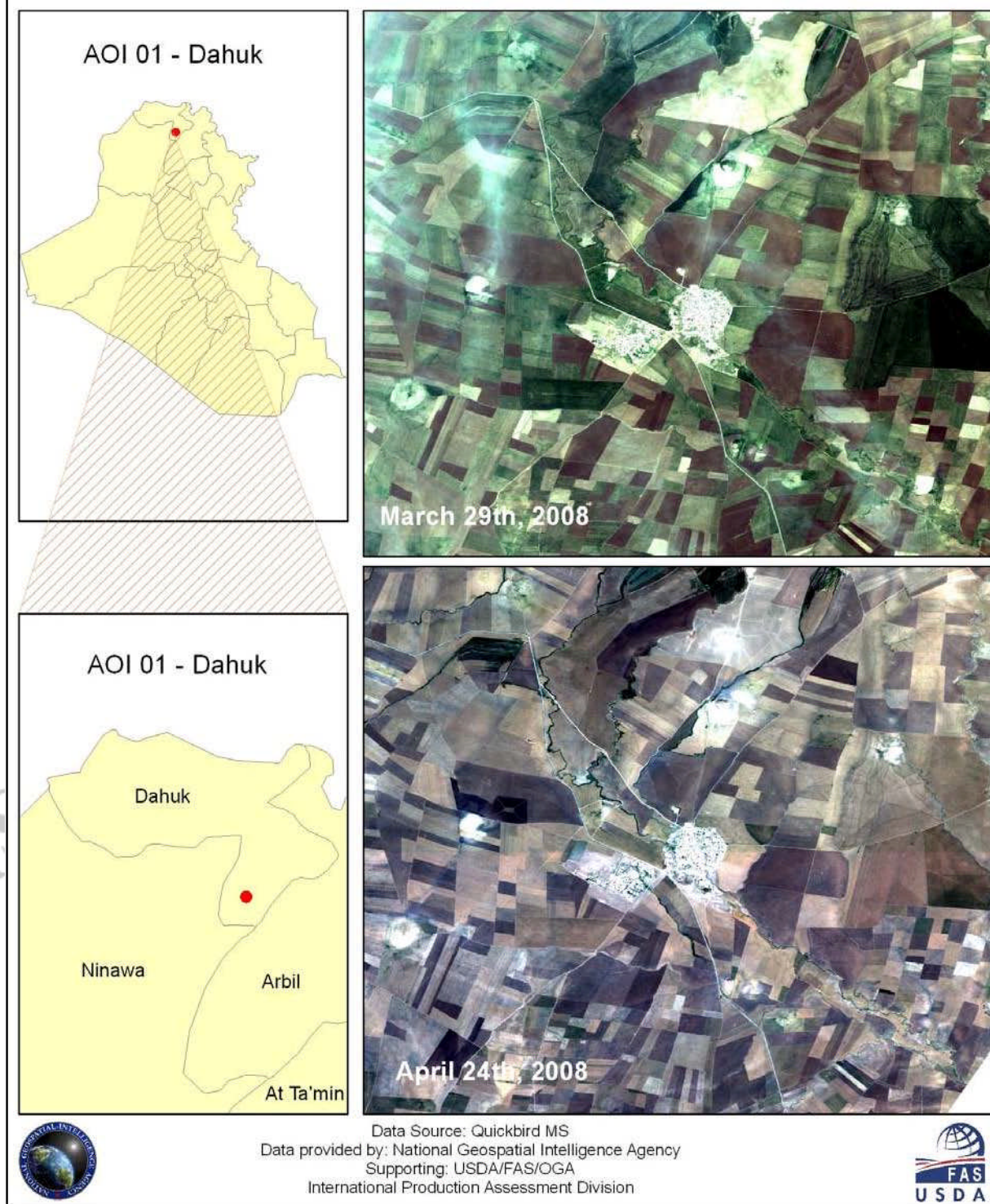


Figure 2: Comparison of Quickbird multispectral imagery collected over AOI #1 on Mar 29 and Apr 24, 2008 (Dahuk).

Crop Harvest: Mar 29th, 2008 to Apr 24th, 2008

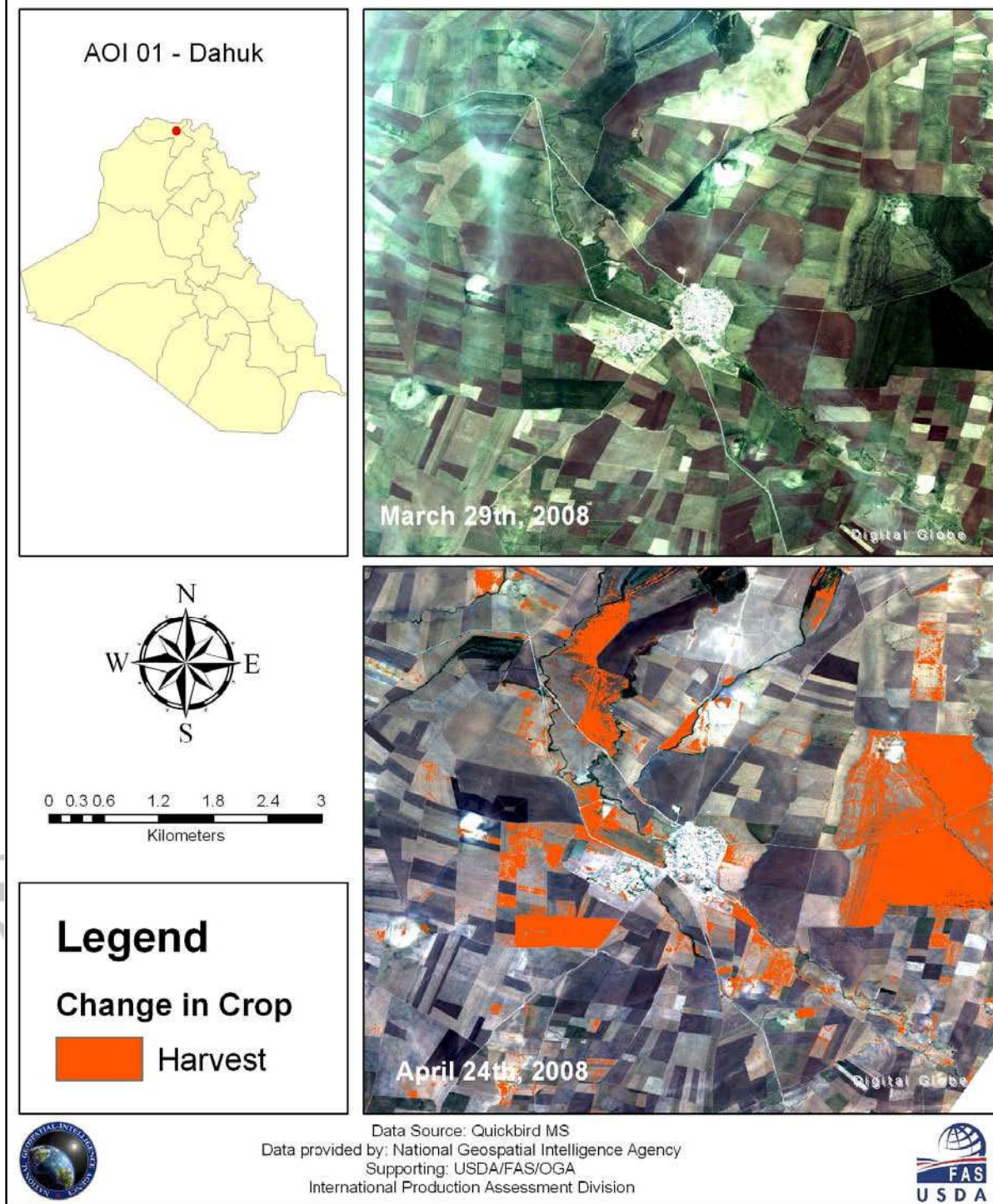


Figure 3: Harvested crop in AOI #1, April 24th, 2008